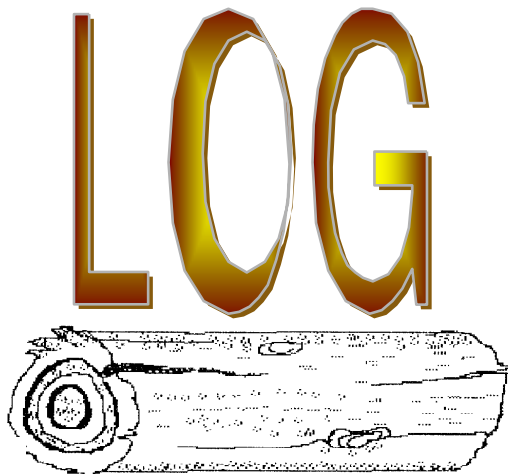




FOUNDED 1947



Web:

<http://www.westparkradiops.org>

Email: [w8vm@arrrl.net](mailto:w8vm@arrrl.net)

CLUB'S W8VM SKCC #12111

February - March  
VOL. LXI

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No.2

## WEST PARK RADIOPS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



### WEST PARK NEWS \*

Monday night nets are on the NODXA's repeater at 8 p.m. Listen or check in. Join the fun. We thank the Northern Ohio DX Association for our use of their repeater, W8DXA, 147.36+ (PL 107.2). Our meeting schedule varies. Pay attention to our opportunities to announce meeting changes.



### UPCOMING CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES\*...

(sourced from WA7BNM and ARRL information)

\* Subject to Change,  
Including order of events,  
locations and times.

Feb 9 ARRL School Club Roundup  
Feb 14 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest  
Feb 21 ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW  
Feb 28 North American QSO Party, RTTY  
Mar 7 ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB  
Mar 14 Stew Perry Topband Challenge 160m  
Mar 21 K1USN Slow Speed Test  
Mar 28 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

LOOK FOR 6M OPENINGS

Thursday Evenings FT4 Contest

\*Subject to change



### WEST PARK RADIOPS MEETINGS & PROGRAMS FOR 2026\*

Feb 17 } Canary's Restaurant 11:30 a.m.\*  
Mar 17 } Lunch and short business meeting

## **N8WS PHOTO ON QRZ.COM ...**

Photo by Bill Squires, N8WS. Copyright N8WS 2026.



## **THE REAL STORY OF WEST PARK'S NAME...**

The Cleveland Plain Dealer recently had an article by a gall-bladder patient that of all things pointed to the real origin of the part of Cleveland called West Park while the patient was healing and reading books. Two of the books were by an author named Margaret Manor Butler. She wrote two history books about the area we call Lakewood, Ohio and surrounding areas. The West Park neighborhood in very early days was originally a 700 acre farm near Lorain Road owned by John M. West. It was known as West's Park! He developed an artificial lake, and well-trimmed lawns and unusual shrubbery. The name West's Park stuck for many years until somehow the "'s" was dropped.

## **QRZ 250 AWARD ...**

New QRZ Award: USA250 (The 250th Anniversary of the United States of America)  
In 2026, the United States of America will commemorate a historic milestone — the 250th anniversary of its founding. To honor this once-in-a-lifetime event, QRZ is proud to introduce a special commemorative operating award: USA 250. The USA 250 Award is available to amateur radio operators worldwide and is granted upon the successful confirmation of 250 two-way contacts with US-based amateur radio stations made during the 2026 calendar year. Look it up on QRZ.COM.

## **GRIDS, LOOKING, AND MAPPING...**

ABOUT: <https://gridtracker.org/>

Some of the features of GridTracker are:

Highly advanced mapping of real-time and historical contacts on a vivid, highly customizable, interactive map. Many overlays are supported, such as Greyline, real-time award tracking, Moon position and Reception Reports (Spots). Detailed State, Grid and County information is instantly accessible from the map! [Grid/county hunters rejoice!]

Audio / Visual Customizable Alerts – Get notification

Comprehensive callsign lookup support from popular databases.

‘Call Roster’ table view of live activity, also highly customizable to support award chasers or special events. Easily initiate QSOs with a single click.

GridTracker integrates with many popular logging programs and web based systems, allowing you to see up to the minute progress for awards.

Complete DXCC, Country, Callsign Prefix recognition

100% offline mode available for field-day, POTA, SOTA, IOTA and/or mobile use.

Real-time spotting of other GridTracker and Log4OM users

GridTracker is currently under active development with you in mind, tell us what you’d like to see!

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ABOUT: <https://www.dxlook.com/>

It has many nice features about DX and even current weather. You may like it.

ABOUT:

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/mapping-ham-radio.974780/>

Here’s interesting data on the distribution of amateur radio operators in each U.S. state.

## **FCC RULE CHANGES...**

(ARRL NEWS 12/19/2025)

Obsolete Part 97 Rules to be Deleted February 10, 2026

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As previously reported by ARRL, among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the Federal Register. Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

§ 97.27. This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC’s right to modify station licenses.

§ 97.29. This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses. ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.

§ 97.315 (b)(2). This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.

4. § 97.521(b) and Appendix 2. This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.

## **REVERSE BEACON TOOL...**

<https://www.qrz.com/db/K5OHY> by K5OHY, Timothy Hale

Recently, I have been working on a tool to help analyze Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) data, offering more visual insight into SNR. This web application allows you to input a callsign, grid square, and you can either paste data directly from the RBN website or let the tool download raw data by date. If no data is pasted or no date entered, data from the last full UTC day will be used. Additionally, you can filter the data by band and time.

<https://rbnmap.streamlit.app/>

## **IRCs GONE...**

<https://www.upu.int/en/press-release/2025/press-release-end-of-a-chapter-start-of-a-legacy-the-international-reply-coupon-enters-the-histo>

Published: 15.12.2025 Share 15 December (Berne, Switzerland) – Since its introduction on 1 October 1907, the international reply coupon (IRC) has accompanied generations of correspondents, travellers and collectors across the world. Serving as a truly universal paper currency, it enables the holder to pay for postage of an unregistered international airmail letter between the UPU's 192 member countries. For almost 120 years and across 10 successive models, the IRC has embodied the values of universality, fairness and solidarity upon which the universal postal service is founded.

On 17 September 2025, at the 28th Universal Postal Congress in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), the UPU member countries decided, with a view to adapting and simplifying the universal services, to discontinue the IRC as of 31 December 2026. This decision is a natural progression within the broader transformation of international postal services, in alignment with the digital practices and modern outlook of their customers.

The UPU International Bureau is proud to provide support in this transition and is currently working towards the IRC's transformation into a part of the UPU's heritage, in keeping with its history and unique role in global postal cooperation. IRCs will remain valid and available for sale by and exchange with the designated operators of UPU member countries until 31 December 2026.

Lastly, in celebration of the exceptional legacy of the IRC, a special commemorative product will be released. Tracing the history of the IRC and offering an unprecedented customer experience, this product will honour this iconic page in the history of philately and the UPU.

## GET THAT EMAIL ADDRESS PROBLEM FIXED...

<https://www.w1hh.org/january-2026-billerica-amateur-radio-society-newsletter/>

### Is your Email address on the FCC site up to date?

§ 97.23 Mailing and email addresses.

Each license grant **must** show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. **Revocation** of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.

[85 FR 85533, Dec. 29, 2020]

I recommend that you log on to the “your FCC Registration” at

<https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/updateRegistrationPre.do>

to make sure that your email address is up to date. Also, in the **future should you change your home address, or your email address** be sure to remember to update it on the FCC site. [The \$35 FCC application fee applies to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.

Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee’s operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees. – ed.]

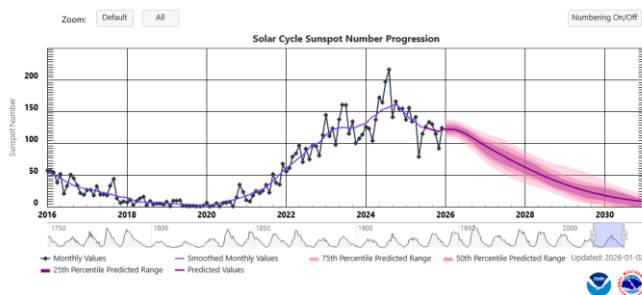
--de Bruce, W1LUS

## RIG EXPERT’S DAMAGE...

Rig Expert Ukraine Ltd. is a leading developer and manufacturer of antenna analyzers, transceiver interfaces, and amateur radio software. The company was founded in 2003 by four Ukrainian radio amateurs: Sergei Litvinov (UX1UA), Denys Nechytailov (UR8US), Nickolai Fedoseev (UT2UZ), Victor Tkachenko (UT1UA). Since then the RigExpert has become a recognized brand Worldwide. Radio amateurs all over the World associate the RigExpert brand with high quality, reliability, and functionality. Today the RigExpert has taken a leading role in developing innovative products for amateur and professional radio.

RigExpert’s Administrative Office Destroyed in Missile Attack – Production Remains Intact [Kyiv, 12 Feb 2025] – Today, RigExpert’s administrative office was completely destroyed by a Russian ballistic missile. Fortunately, all employees are safe. Despite this difficult situation, the RigExpert team is committed to restoring operations as soon as possible to continue providing our products to you.

## CYCLE 25’s PROGRESS...





# THE DX SCENE...

(Courtesy of the NG3K website <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> )

## Call, Start Date End Date, DXCC Entity

V31DJ,2026 Feb01,2026 Feb27,Belize  
 3B8,2026 Feb02,2026 Feb23,Mauritius  
 V4,2026 Feb04,2026 Mar09,St Kitts & Nevis  
 S9BV,2026 Feb05,2026 Feb20,Sao Tome & Principe  
 D4VR,2026 Feb06,2026 Feb19,Cape Verde Is  
 VP8TDX,2026 Feb07,2026 Feb14,Falkland Is  
 XU7O,2026 Feb07,2026 Feb21,Cambodia  
 AU7RS,2026 Feb08,2026 Feb25,Lakshadweep Is  
 OX7AKT,2026 Feb10,2026 Feb17,Greenland  
 TZ1CE,2026 Feb10,2026 Mar01,Mali  
 VP8TM,2026 Feb14,2026 Feb28,Falkland Is  
 3Y0K,2026 Feb15,2026 Mar14,Bouvet Is  
 8R1WA,2026 Feb19,2026 Feb27,Guyana  
 8P9XB,2026 Feb21,2026 Feb28,Barbados  
 V4,2026 Feb21,2026 Mar07,St Kitts & Nevis  
 8Q7ZW,2026 Feb28,2026 Mar12,Maldives  
 T80K,2026 Mar03,2026 Mar19,Palau  
 VP2E,2026 Mar03,2026 Mar20,Anguilla  
 FG,2026 Mar07,2026 Mar12,Guadeloupe  
 PJ7AA,2026 Mar08,2026 Apr04,Sint Maarten  
 JW8EKA,2026 Mar13,2026 Mar15,Svalbard  
 JD1,2026 Mar13,2026 Mar16,Ogasawara  
 TX5EU,2026 Mar13,2026 Mar25,Austral Is  
 V31ZY,2026 Mar16,2026 Mar27,Belize  
 6Y,2026 Mar18,2026 Mar24,Jamaica  
 S21WD,2026 Mar18,2026 Mar31,Bangladesh  
 XX9W,2026 Mar18,2026 Mar31,Macao  
 CY0S,2026 Mar19,2026 Mar31,Sable Is  
 FG,2026 Mar20,2026 Mar27,Guadeloupe  
 5W0AF,2026 Mar22,2026 Apr11,Samoa  
 C6AFD,2026 Mar24,2026 Mar31,Bahamas  
 FM,2026 Mar25,2026 Apr02,Martinique  
 T88KH,2026 Mar26,2026 Mar30,Palau  
 EA8,2026 Mar30,2026 Apr06,Canary Is  
 VP9KF,2026 Apr16,2026 Apr30,Bermuda  
 TX9W,2026 Apr19,2026 Apr30,Marquesas  
 C5,2026 Apr25,2026 May08,Gambia  
 V4,2026 May24,2026 Jun01,St Kitts & Nevis  
 TO3E,2026 May25,2026 May27,Martinique  
 T88AR,2026 Jun10,2026 Jun18,Palau  
 FS,2026 Jun10,2026 Jun24,St Martin  
 PJ2,2026 Jun12,2026 Jun29,Curacao  
 T88TB,2026 Jun19,2026 Jun22,Palau  
 4K,2026 Jul23,2026 Aug08,Azerbaijan  
 J68TT,2026 Aug15,2026 Aug22,St Lucia

## 2026 ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS

President  
 Kevin Brandstetter **K8VUS**  
 (216) 672-2289  
Vice President  
 Vicki Mate **K8VGM**  
Secretary  
 Glenn Williams **AF8C**  
 (440) 934-5566  
Treasurer  
 Ann Wadsworth **KA8ZEP**  
  
Fifth Board Member  
 Stephen Kinford **N8WB**  
 (216) 702-8384

## COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS  
 COMMITTEE –  
**OPEN**  
 Safety Officer  
**OPEN**  
 W8VM License Trustee  
**N8WB**  
 ARRL VE'S  
**AF8C, N8WB, W8MET, KC8FOS**  
 NET MANAGER  
**Need a Volunteer**  
 CONTESTS, SATELLITES  
**N8WS and N8WB**  
 PROPERTY CUSTODIAN  
**N8WS**  
 8TH AREA BURO LETTER MGR.  
**AF8C (8V)**  
 PROGRAMS  
**OPEN**  
 EDITOR, WEBMASTER  
**AF8C**